THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The payment rates for casual production Assistants booked in the News Division of Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi have been revised recently. The revised rates do not apply to the Production Assistants booked in other Divisions and Kendras.

(c) and (d) A proposal to enhance the payment rates for casual Production Assistants booked in other Divisions and Doordarshan Kendras is under consideration of the Directorate General, Doordarshan.

Harassment of employees of AIR, Nagpur

5517. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some members of the staff of All India Radio, Nagpur are being harassed by their seniors and are being frequently transferred;

(b) if so, whether the said staff have made any representation in this regard;

(c) if so, what action is being taken in this regard; and

(d) what long term steps are proposed to be taken to see that such harassment is not done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However some employees of All India Radio, Nagpur have made representations in this regard.

(c) The representations were promptly looked into and action taken to remove misunderstandings or apprehensions of the concerned employees.

(d) Does not airse.

PAC's Criticism on DD Programmes

5518. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament in its 57th Report tabled in Parliament on the 4th March, 1994 has criticised Doordarshan commissioned programme on production, shortcomings, irregularities etc. as has been brought out in the news item captioned "PAC raps DD on programmes" appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 5th March, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following inadequacies/shortcomings have been mentioned in the Report:

> "Absence of planning regarding programme requirements, absence of procedure in the selection/empanelment of producers, defects in the costing techniques, delay in production, delay in telecast of programmes, incorrect procedure adopted in respect of security deposits and deduction of income-tax at source, sharing of copyrights with the producers, absence of guidelines/instructions to regulate the administration of the scheme and lack of control of the Ministry over Doordarshan in this regard and certain lapses in maintenance of accounts of Doordarshan."

(c) The recommendations are being examined whereafter suitable remedial action will be taken.

Time Allotted for Different Political Parties in Bhopal DD Kendra

5519. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what was the time given to Congress party and Bhartiya Janata Party respectively during the period from 1st January, 1994 to 31st March, 1944 in the news telecast by Bhopal Doordarshan; and

(b) whether the recognised opposition party in the state i.e. Bhartiya Janata Party is deliberately given less coverage; if so, what are the reasons for such partiality?